

GRISAMORE HOUSE

JEFFERSONVILLE, INDIANA

Clark C.

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HABS NO. 24-18

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District No. 24

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
HERBERT W. FOLTZ, DISTRICT OFFICER  
1034 Architects Building, Indianapolis

GRISAMORE HOUSE  
JEFFERSONVILLE, INDIANA

HABS NO.24-18

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DESCRIPTION:

This is a four story brick house. Originally there were no windows on the east or west side, and it is assumed that the intention was to build a series of houses one against the other as far west as Pearl Street, the reason for this assumption being that the bricks are laid up in a manner at the second floor line so that they could be removed without disturbing the walls for the insertion of floor joists. Since these do not occur at the first floor, it was probably intended to have a passage way to the rear between the buildings.

All walls, except at rear porches and third floor partitions, are of brick (8" and 12" thick) Joists in general are 2½"x 12" spaced 18"o.c. Flooring of random width boards are laid directly on joists. On the ground floor, the flooring is laid on 2x4 sleepers. All walls and ceilings are plastered throughout. Roof was originally shingled.

The ground floor was entered from front by steps which projected out into the sidewalk. This floor was used as dining room and kitchen, and had open fire-places with wood mantels similar to first and second floor mantels. The two large rooms on first floor were used as a double parlor. The second floor <sup>porch</sup> probably ran across the entire building originally. Note the door off stairway platform to rear. On the third floor there is one large room probably used by servants.

(Signed) C. E. Bedau  
Squad Leader

March, 1934

Approved Herbert H. Foltz  
DISTRICT OFFICER

Note: See publication in Indianapolis Star during Jeffersonville Centennial Celebration (1903) for photo and description of this house.

Reviewed 1936. H.C.F.

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HISTORY:

In the year 1802 John Harrieon was deeded a lot #117 by the city of Jeffersonville. Records of deed are missing and confused in regard to this lot up to 1837, as it evidently changed ownership frequently during this period.

On April 11, 1837 Boes, Dean and Pattereon deeded to "Wileon Grisamore the East half of lot #117 for the sum of \$135.00." On June 28, 1837 Peter Wynne deeded to David Grisamore the West half of lot #117 for the sum of \$500.00. From this date the double house of Grisamore seems to have had its origin. It is not definitely known who was responsible for the design and construction of this house, but Mrs. Laura Tyler (present owner of west side) is under the impression that her great grandfather, who was a builder, did the work. The name of Glossbrenner has been mentioned as a builder of those days.

Prior to 1853 the west side of the house was owned at different times by some of the prominent citizens of Jeffersonville. James Keigwin, pioneer of the town who built the first home in Jeffersonville, a brickmaker, contractor and prison warden once owned this side. This west side was also owned by Dr. Nathaniel Field, at one time member of the Indiana Legislature. He was the leading citizen of his time.

In 1853 Wileon Grisamore became the owner of the entire house. From this period the ownership was as follows:

East Side of house	West Side of house
5/7/54..H.F.Smith	3/25/54..H.F.Smith
4/22/62..E.C.Chamberlain	3/26/63..Otto Verhoff
1/13/70..Jas. G.Read	5/23/64..L.W.Beckwith
John F. Read	12/21/64..James G. Read
Eliza A. Read (widow)	2/16/70 Jas. Merriwether
4/10/1906 Orlena Ogdon Fitch	1/13/97 John Driscoll
	1/13/19 Anna Laura Tyler

(Signed) C. E. Redau.

April, 1934

Approved Herbert N. Foltz Squad Leader  
District Officer